



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Lovert M. Alexander, 20, Leavenworth, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on January 26, 2004, before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school.**

Melgren stated that Alexander admitted at his plea that on July 15, 2003, he was stopped by a Leavenworth Police Department officer within 1,000 feet of Lawson Elementary School for driving with a suspended license. Alexander further admitted that when the officer approached his vehicle, the officer saw marijuana and a handgun in plain view. Alexander also admitted that the officer searched his vehicle and found approximately 35.36 grams (approximately 1.25 ounces) of crack cocaine, marijuana, a loaded pistol, and \$1,400 in cash. Alexander admitted that a portion of the crack cocaine had been packaged in 45 individually wrapped baggies. Alexander admitted that he intended to distribute the crack cocaine and possessed the firearm for protection.

Alexander faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of life in federal prison, without parole, for possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and a minimum of five years and a maximum of eighty years for possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school. Sentencing is set for April 19, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Leavenworth Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.